

What You as a Pet Owner Need to Know About Spaying/Neutering ("Altering")

What does it mean to have an animal spayed/neutered?

Having an animal spayed/neutered means that you take your pet to a licensed veterinarian (pet doctor) who performs an operation that makes it so your animal cannot have puppies and kittens (or in the case of a male animal, cannot help make puppies and kittens). This is very important because every year thousands of animals have to be killed in shelters all over the country simply because there are not enough homes for all of them. You can do your part to help stop the pet overpopulation problem by making sure that your animals are spayed and neutered.



Why should I have my animal spayed/neutered?

The Benefits for you...Pet owners that have their animals spayed/neutered do not have to:

- worry about what to do with unplanned litters of puppies and kittens
- deal with bloody discharges from their female pet's "heat" periods
- worry about annoying males that are attracted to their female animal's scent
- confine their female pet while she is in heat or watch her frantically pace and cry out for a male mate
- be concerned about tomcats "spraying" in the house
- be embarrassed by their male dog's urge to "mount" children and adult's legs
- and they will not have to witness intense aggressions in their pet—spaying/neutering reduces aggression towards other animals, which decreases the chances of them getting into a fight, thus saving you money on expensive vet bills
- in addition, dog owners that spay/neuter their pet dogs receive **a reduced license fee each year (\$15.00 for spay/neutered animals vs. \$60.00 for an unspayed/neutered animal). The money that you save in license fees (\$45.00) quickly pays for the cost of the spay/neuter operation**

The Benefits for your pet...

- reduces a pet's desire to roam in search of a mate, which decreases the problems involved with a free-roaming animal (i.e. car accidents, animal fights, attacks & injuries, stolen animals, etc.). A male sensing that a female in heat is nearby can break down doors and jump fences in his desire to mate. One male running loose for just a few hours can impregnate many females adding to the serious problem of unwanted puppies and kittens
- eliminates all the problems and risks involved in pregnancy and birth
- eliminates the risk of uterine cancer and mammary tumors
- reduces the risk of prostate problems and testicular tumors
- and it lets your pet relax and enjoy being a part of the family

So PLEASE be a part of the solution and have your pets spayed/neutered—it saves animal lives!



San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609

